TIMOTHY TRUMAN'S

SCOUT™

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ON THE RACKS

SCOUT no. 4
The National Guard surrounds the President in the Astrodome, and 1999's going haywire!

ALIEN ENCOUNTERS no. 5
The incredible Richard Corben makes his Eclipse debut! Plus, Bill Wray and Chuck Beckum!

THE DOOM PATROL INDEX no. 1 and 2
Before The New Teen Titans, there was The Doom Patrol! A special 2-part, must-have series!

MR. MONSTER no. 5
Doc Stearn battles a giant flesh-eating amoeba that decides to adopt Mr. Monster as his 'daddy!'

THE TWISTED TALES OF BRUCE JONES no. 1 and 2
The name of this 4-issue Micro Series tells it all! Bruce Jones has put together some of his greatest efforts, including some never-before published gems!

THE MASKED MAN no. 8
The second half of what may be the most momentous tale in the Masked Man's life. Don't miss "Roxy."

SEDUCTION OF THE INNOCENT! no. 4
Back for more! Ray Bradbury's "The Foghorn" is adapted! Plus, Alex Toth, Nick Cardy and others!

THE NEW DNAgents no. 6
The Agents attempt to return their lives to normality, but too many things get in the way.

LASER ERASER no. 4
Mysta and Axel travel to the rim planets to clean out a nest of space pirates in "Death!"

MIRACLEMAN no. 6
At last! The answer to the question everyone's been asking for over two years — what happens to Miracledog! New stories begin!

STUDS WOULD UNDERSTAND: When i asked for people who read our comics to write me a few lines telling who they are and what they do for a living, i really didn't know i'd get so many replies! True to my word, i will run excerpts from everyone's letters. This is you, people — you who make it possible for me to work in comics. And i thank you:

GREG FLEMING-WOLFE, Saint Paul, Minnesota, is "a house-husband/musician, father of two (16 months and 1 month)." His wife is a law student. He enjoys "several of the Eclipse titles," and seems particularly fond of Tim Truman's stuff. Greg asks me to do a "tell-all" column on myself ("Are you English? Are you married (to Dean M.)? Besides lounging in hot springs, what do you do for relaxation?").

Okay, briefly, Greg, i am ethnically half Sicilian (maiden name Manfredi) and half German Jewish (mother's maiden name Erlanger). I'm not married, but Curly Dino is my partner in business and in bed, to put it delicately and with extreme grace. I have a 14 year old daughter, Althaea, from a previous partnership, from whence also sprang the made-up couple-name Yronwode. (His maiden name was Paskin.) In addition to hot springing, i relax by watching old b&w movies, collecting old 78 rpm records, and producing Collectible Plastics, a bi-monthly newsletter for those who, like Dean and me, are accumulators of phenol formaldehyde artifacts from the inter-War period. Oh yes, and i also collect old love comics, and Fiesta dinnerware, and Mission style furniture and art deco style novelties, and illustrated children's books from the 1920s-30s. And Dino collects all of that stuff too, plus he also is into 1939-40 New York World's Fair items. And i collect fruit crate labels. And we both collect 1930s linen-finish postcards depicting neat old buildings and theaters. And we love to drive around the country taking photos of streamlined buildings, and buying obscure phenol formaldehyde jewelry and junk. Further details on request. And now back to you guys!

SAM HAZELRIG, Tampa, Florida, actually took me up on my offer to come visit the office here in Guerneville! He is a food broker for Dulin Brokers in Tampa. What he does is almost exactly the same thing for food that a comic book direct sales distributor does for comics. He describes himself as "the ultimate middle man — currently looking for a line of slug slime." (That last is in reference to the late, lamented AZTEC ACE, one of his favourite comics.) In truth, Sam calls up Safeway stores and asks them if they're out of Niblets canned corn. He gave us a t-shirt that advertises Tampa as the Guava capital of the United States, which i guess it is. We gave him a free comic in return.

DAVID A. J. McGLONE, San Jose, California, is "a software technician and junior software developer at Tandem Computers, [and] also a student at San Jose State College."

STEPHEN COLLINS, Abington, Pennsylvania, is "an assistant pressman for an offset printing plant called Spectra Graphics." He says this shop "doesn't print comics, at least not yet, but you never know what the future might bring." Stephen likes the idea of learning about Eclipsoids. "I think it will be neat to find out what everyone does." Me too, Stephen. Stay tuned to this station for more info!

catherine yronwode

IN YOUR HANDS

What's happening to the country? The President is surrounded by the National Guard in the Astrodome! Houston police — and the civilian Knights of America — are sweeping the city! And a squad of Rangers has grouped in the zeppelin! Scout and Missy find themselves up to their ears in trouble as 1999 begins again right now!

SCOUT no. 4, February 1986. Published by Eclipse Comics, P.O. Box 199, Guerneville, CA 95446. Catherine Yronwode, Editor-in-Chief. Dean Mullaney, Publisher. Scout ©1986 Timothy Truman. Fashion in Action ©1986 John K. Snyder III. All other material ©1986 Eclipse Enterprises, Inc. All rights reserved. The stories, characters and events in this magazine are fictional. The characters featured in this magazine and their distinctive likenesses are trademarks (in the case of *Scout*) of Timothy Truman and (in the case of *Fashion in Action*) of John K. Snyder III. Film by SM Graphics. Printed in Canada.

SCOUT

It had been an exciting week.

In Arizona, EMANUEL SANTANA, a.k.a. "SCOUT", had slain AL BONANZA -- pornographer, pimp, pedophile, and close friend of PRESIDENT GRAL.

2 days later in New Mexico, Scout killed U.S. Secretary of Agriculture "CHIPPY" WALTZ. Waltz's illegal deals, special interests, and self-serving anti-labor policies had led to the exhaustion of 90% of the nations farmland, and total government control over what was left.

Scout had blown up an Air Force helicopter and a dozen of Waltz's hired thugs. In Houston, the Apache blew up my squad and knifed my partner. And when I finally had him in my gunsights, he'd managed to walk away.

Yeah, Now he was starting to worry folks. -- ROSANNA WINTER, "IN THE CAMP OF THE BARBARIANS" - 1999

I AIN'T SUPERSTITIOUS

ART AND STORY: © TIMOTHY TRUMAN '85

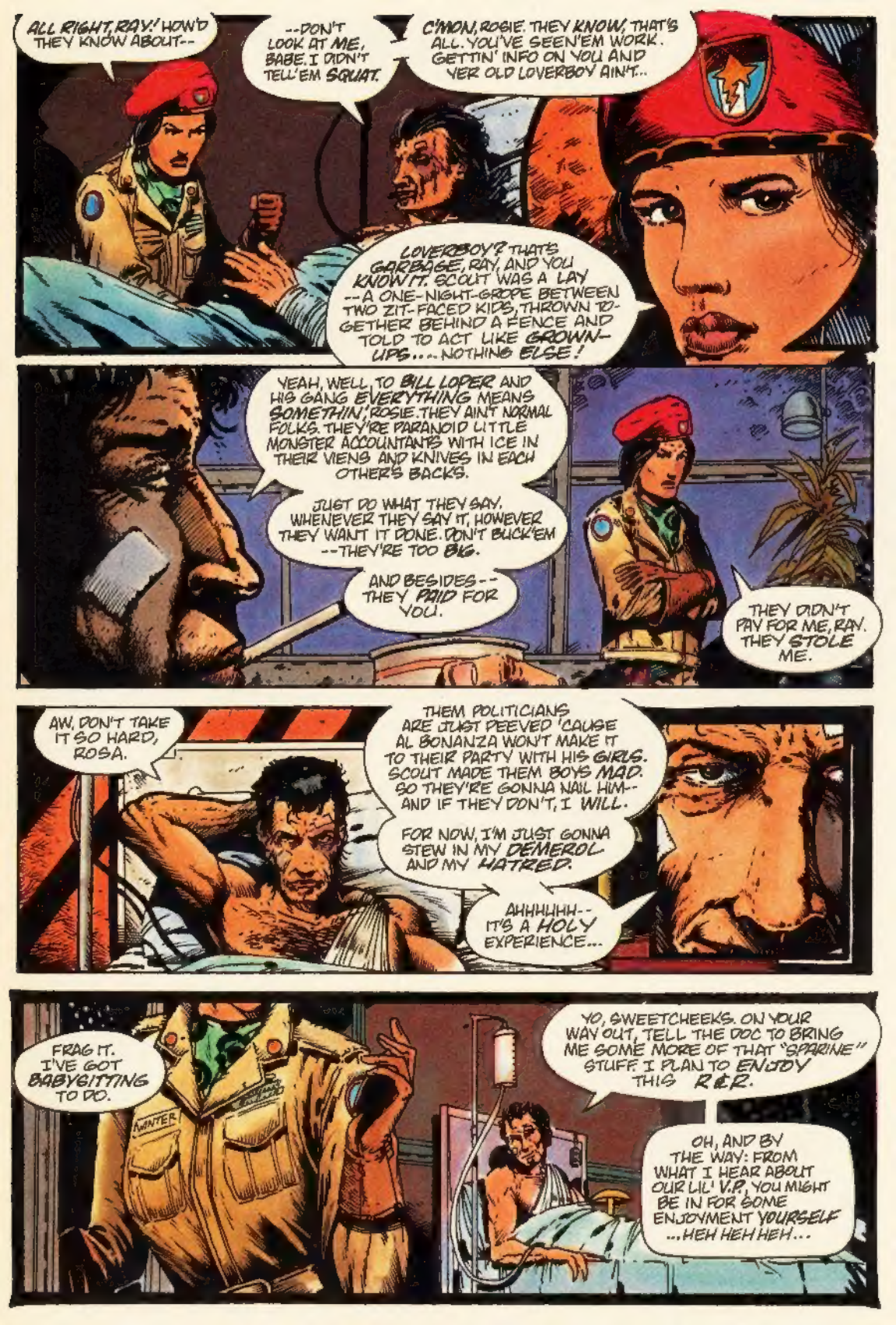
LETTERS: TIM HARKINS

PAINTING: SAM PARSONS

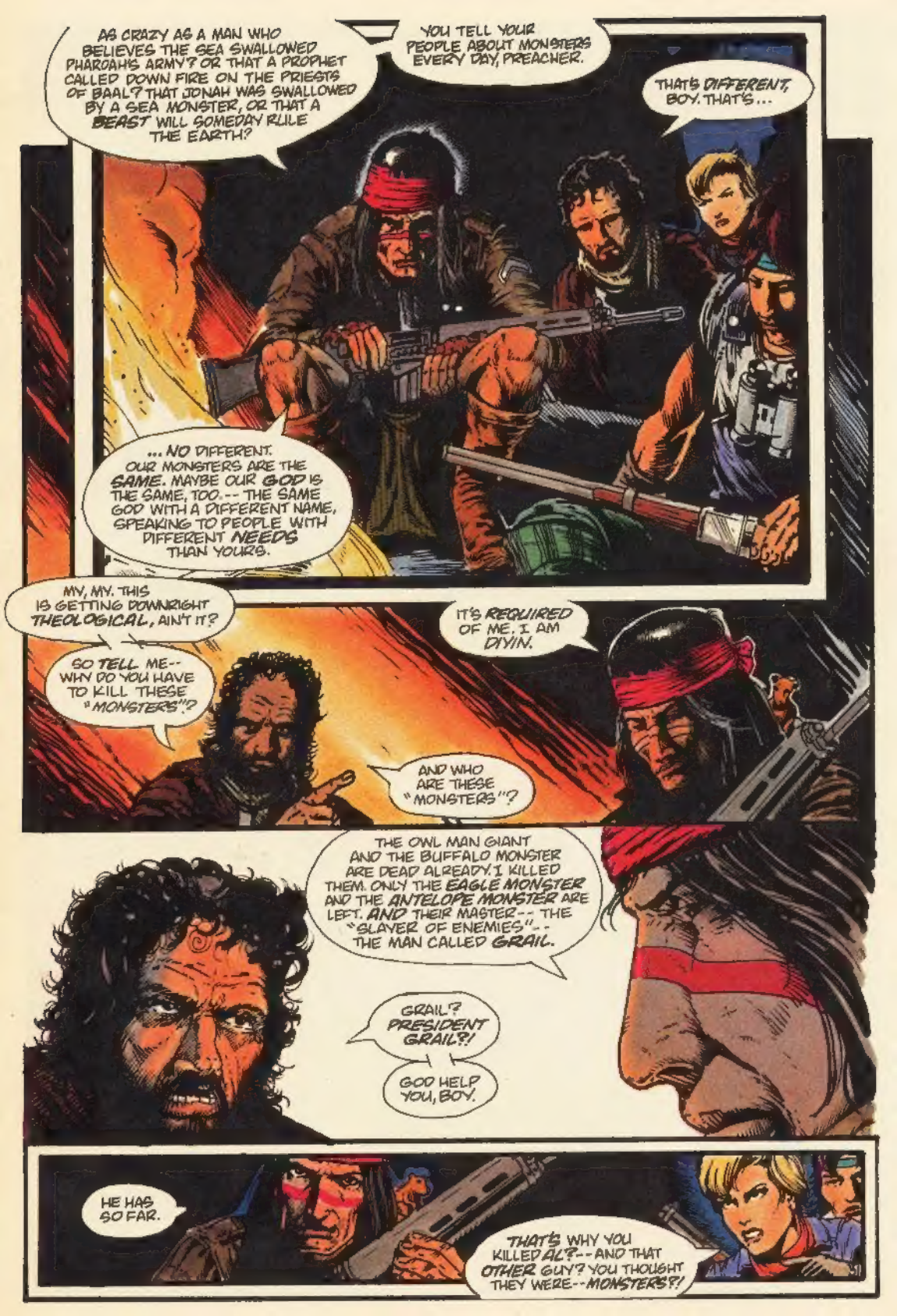
EDITING: CAT YRONWODE

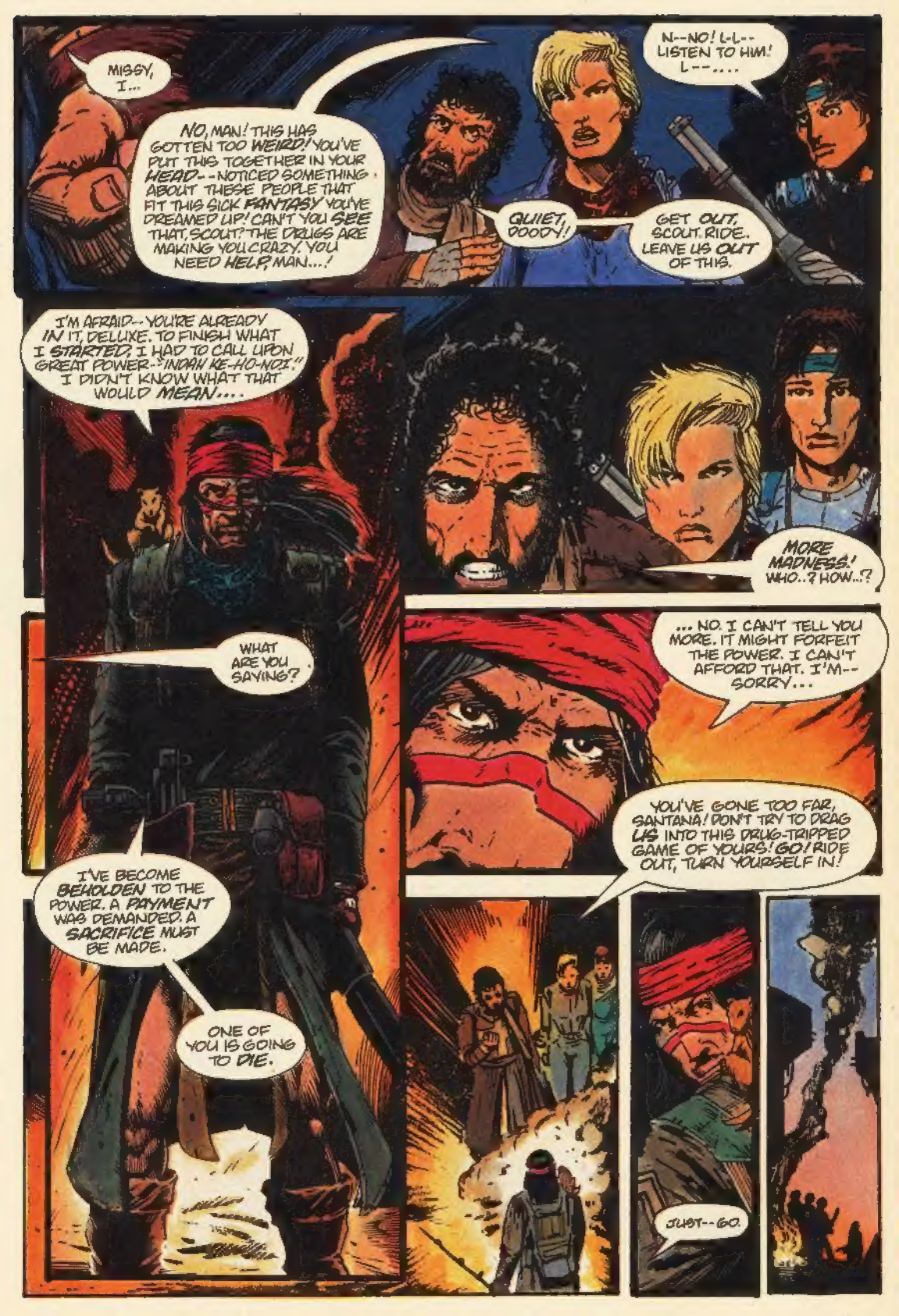
A 4 WINDS PRODUCTION

...HOUSTON POLICE TEAMS ARE SWEEPING THE CITY, AIDED BY CIVILIAN VOLUNTEERS OF THE "KNIGHTS OF AMERICA." TWO NATIONAL GUARD DIVISIONS SURROUND THE PRESIDENT IN THE ASTRODOME, AND THERE'S A SQUAD OF RANGERS HERE IN THE ZEP, ASSIGNED TO MR. EAGRE AND THE VICE PRESIDENT.
MR. LOPER, WHY DOESN'T THE PRESIDENT JUST POSTPONE HIS ADDRESS UNTIL WE HAVE THIS THING UNDER CONTROL?
MR. GRAIL WON'T HEAR OF IT, WINTER. WE'VE PUMPED TOO MUCH PROMOTION INTO HIS "NEW AMERICA" RALLY. THE SPONSORS WOULD BE FURIOUS.
MORE IMPORTANTLY, HE HAS HIS IMAGE TO CONSIDER. AMERICA ELECTED JERRY GRAIL BECAUSE OF HIS STRENGTH. HE'S NOT THE KIND OF MAN WHO'D BACK OFF FROM AN "INJUN."
THEN WE'LL DO OUR BEST TO...
PLEASE, SGT. WINTER. SO FAR, YOUR "BEGT" HAS BEEN NOTHING MORE THAN AN EXERCISE IN STUPIDITY--
--OR, SHOULD I SAY "CUPIDITY"? TWICE YOU HAD THIS SCOUT IN YOUR REACH. TWICE YOU LET HIM ESCAPE. FOR YOUR SAKE, I HOPE YOUR HESITATION HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH YOUR PAST--ASSOCIATION--WITH THE INDIAN.
WHA--? I ASSURE YOU, SIR, THAT...
ENOUGH. WE'LL SPEAK NO MORE OF IT.
SGT. VAUGHN, YOU'RE TO REST. YOU'RE NEEDED NEXT WEEK TO HELP COORDINATE SECURITY.
WINTER. YOU'RE ASSIGNED TO THE VICE PRESIDENT. WE NEED HER FOR THE RALLY.
YES, SIR.
AND MISS WINTER: THERE ARE THOSE ON THE STAFF WHO'D SEE YOU HANGED. BUT IN VIEW OF YOUR IMPRESSIVE SERVICE RECORD DURING THE NICARAGUAN EVACUATION, I CONVINCED THEM TO GIVE YOU ANOTHER CHANCE. YOU'RE CAPABLE -- PARTICULARY FOR A WOMAN. KEEP MS. CARVER SAFE.

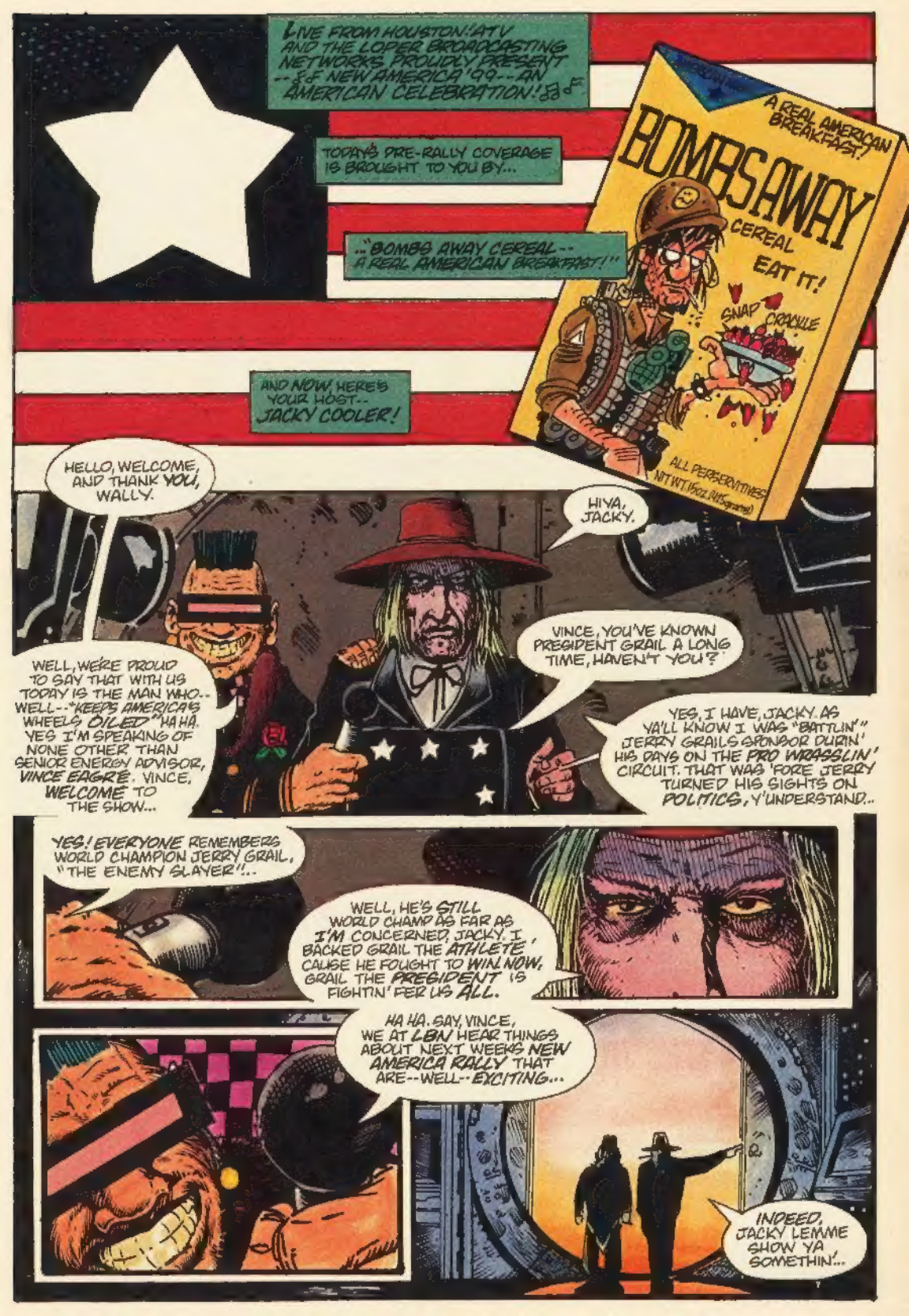

ALL RIGHT, RAY! HOW'D THEY KNOW ABOUT--
--DON'T LOOK AT ME, BABE. I DIDN'T TELL'EM SQUAT.
C'MON, ROSIE. THEY KNOW, THAT'S ALL. YOU'VE SEEN'EM WORK. GETTIN' INFO ON YOU AND YER OLD LOVERBOY AIN'T..
LOVERBOY? THAT'S GARBAGE, RAY, AND YOU KNOW IT. SCOUT WAS A LAY --A ONE-NIGHT-GROPE BETWEEN TWO ZIT-FACED KIDS, THROWN TOGETHER BEHIND A FENCE AND TOLD TO ACT LIKE GROWN-UPS....NOTHING ELSE!
YEAH, WELL TO BILL LOPER AND HIS GANG EVERYTHING MEANS SOMETHIN', ROSIE. THEY AIN'T NORMAL FOLKS. THEY'RE PARANOID LITTLE MONSTER ACCOUNTANTS WITH ICE IN THEIR VIENS AND KNIVES IN EACH OTHER'S BACKS.
JUST DO WHAT THEY SAY. WHENEVER THEY SAY IT, HOWEVER THEY WANT IT DONE. DON'T BUCK'EM --THEY'RE TOO BIG.
AND BESIDES-- THEY PAID FOR YOU.
THEY DIDN'T PAY FOR ME, RAY. THEY STOLE ME.
AW, DON'T TAKE IT SO HARD, ROSA.
THEM POLITICIANS ARE JUST PEEVED 'CAUSE AL BONANZA WON'T MAKE IT TO THEIR PARTY WITH HIS GIRLS. SCOUT MADE THEM BOYS MAD. SO THEY'RE GONNA NAIL HIM-- AND IF THEY DON'T, I WILL.
FOR NOW, I'M JUST GONNA STEW IN MY DEMEROL AND MY HATRED.
AHHHHHH-- IT'S A HOLY EXPERIENCE...
FRAG IT. I'VE GOT BABYSITTING TO DO.
YO, SWEETCHEEKS. ON YOUR WAY OUT, TELL THE DOC TO BRING ME SOME MORE OF THAT "SPARINE" STUFF I PLAN TO ENJOY THIS R&R.
OH, AND BY THE WAY: FROM WHAT I HEAR ABOUT OUR LIL' V.P., YOU MIGHT BE IN FOR SOME ENJOYMENT YOURSELF ...HEH HEH HEH...

I'VE TAKEN CARE OF DOODY SINCE HE WAS TEN. WHEN HE WAS LITTLE, SOME HACK DENTIST O.D'D HIM ON ANESTHESIA. CUT OFF SOME OXYGEN TO HIS BRAIN. A YEAR LATER, HIS MA DIED IN THE FOOD RIOTS. WHEN I FOUND HIM, HE WAS BEING USED AS A SLAVE BY A HOUSE FULL OF SICKOS ON THE SOUTH SIDE. THEY KEPT HIM CHAINED BEHIND THE STOVE.
POOR KID. HE'S BEEN A BIG HELP TO ME, THOUGH.
THANK GOD NOTHING HAPPENED TO HIM WHEN HE FOLLOWED YOU THE OTHER DAY. I'D HAVE PRAYED FOR YOUR SOUL, SCOUT-- MAINLY 'CAUSE I'D HAVE BEEN TEMPTED TO TAKE IT.
NEW AMERICA FOR '99
YOU'VE BROUGHT THE WHOLE TOWN DOWN DOWN ON US, BOY. YOU HAVE TO LEAVE. BUT DOODY SAYS I SHOULD TALK TO YOU FIRST.
SO, TALK.
O.K.--WHAT WERE YOU DOING IN THAT FUNNY LITTLE HUT YOU BUILT?
IT'S A SWEAT LODGE. I WAS PRAYING. EATING THE PEYOTE. PURIFYING MYSELF. GETTING READY FOR WHAT'S TO COME.
OH, YEAH? WHAT'S TO COME?
A TERRIBLE THING. I MUST KILL THE MONSTERS.
MONSTERS, HUH? YOU'RE STARTING TO SOUND LIKE DOODY.
SO, WHAT MONSTERS ARE THEY? ORCS? GOBLINS? TROLLS? BLUE MEANIES?-- YOU'RE TALKING CRAZY, BOY.


AS CRAZY AS A MAN WHO BELIEVES THE SEA SWALLOWED PHAROAH'S ARMY? OR THAT A PROPHET CALLED DOWN FIRE ON THE PRIESTS OF BAAL? THAT JONAH WAS SWALLOWED BY A SEA MONSTER, OR THAT A BEAST WILL SOMEDAY RULE THE EARTH?
YOU TELL YOUR PEOPLE ABOUT MONSTERS EVERY DAY, PREACHER.
THAT'S DIFFERENT, BOY. THAT'S...
... NO DIFFERENT. OUR MONSTERS ARE THE SAME. MAYBE OUR GOD IS THE SAME, TOO.-- THE SAME GOD WITH A DIFFERENT NAME, SPEAKING TO PEOPLE WITH DIFFERENT NEEDS THAN YOURS.
MY, MY. THIS IS GETTING DOWNRIGHT THEOLOGICAL, AIN'T IT?
SO TELL ME-- WHY DO YOU HAVE TO KILL THESE "MONSTERS"?
IT'S REQUIRED OF ME. I AM DIYIN.
AND WHO ARE THESE "MONSTERS"?
THE OWL MAN GIANT AND THE BUFFALO MONSTER ARE DEAD ALREADY. I KILLED THEM. ONLY THE EAGLE MONSTER AND THE ANTELOPE MONSTER ARE LEFT. AND THEIR MASTER-- THE "SLAYER OF ENEMIES"-- THE MAN CALLED GRAIL.
GRAIL? PRESIDENT GRAIL?!
GOD HELP YOU, BOY.
HE HAS SO FAR.
THAT'S WHY YOU KILLED AL?--AND THAT OTHER GUY? YOU THOUGHT THEY WERE--MONSTERS?!


MISSY, I...
NO, MAN! THIS HAS GOTTEN TOO WEIRD! YOU'VE PUT THIS TOGETHER IN YOUR HEAD--NOTICED SOMETHING ABOUT THESE PEOPLE THAT FIT THIS SICK FANTASY YOU'VE DREAMED UP! CAN'T YOU SEE THAT, SCOUT? THE DRUGS ARE MAKING YOU CRAZY. YOU NEED HELP, MAN...!
N--NO! L-L--LISTEN TO HIM! L--....
QUIET, DOODY!!
GET OUT, SCOUT. RIDE. LEAVE US OUT OF THIS.
I'M AFRAID--YOU'RE ALREADY IN IT, DELUXE. TO FINISH WHAT I STARTED, I HAD TO CALL UPON GREAT POWER--"INDAH KE-HO-NOI." I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT THAT WOULD MEAN....
MORE MADNESS! WHO..? HOW..?
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
... NO. I CAN'T TELL YOU MORE. IT MIGHT FORFEIT THE POWER. I CAN'T AFFORD THAT. I'M--SORRY...
YOU'VE GONE TOO FAR, SANTANA! DON'T TRY TO DRAG US INTO THIS DRUG-TRIPPED GAME OF YOURS! GO! RIDE OUT, TURN YOURSELF IN!
I'VE BECOME BEHOLDEN TO THE POWER. A PAYMENT WAS DEMANDED. A SACRIFICE MUST BE MADE.
ONE OF YOU IS GOING TO DIE.
JUST--GO.

BILL?--IS THAT--YOU--BILL?--
OH, GEEZ...
...UH, NO, MA'AM. I'M SGT. WINTER. MR. LOPER HAD ME ASSIGNED TO YOU.--UH--ARE YOU--O.K., MA'AM...?
BUAAAHHHKK!!
MS. CARVER?!
JUST--G-GET OUT--...
CAN'T DO THAT, MA'AM I'LL CALL A DOC--
NO! NO-PLEASE. DON'T CALL--HIM. N--NOT--AGAIN. DON'T LET THEM--SEE ME--LIKE THIS...PLEASE...
PLEASE--HELP ME..?
YEAH. O.K.. JUST--TAKE IT EASY.
OH, GEEZ...


LIVE FROM HOUSTON! ATV AND THE LOPER BROADCASTING NETWORKS PROUDLY PRESENT --&F NEW AMERICA '99 -- AN AMERICAN CELEBRATION!&F
TODAY'S PRE-RALLY COVERAGE IS BROUGHT TO YOU BY...
..."BOMBS AWAY CEREAL -- A REAL AMERICAN BREAKFAST!"
A REAL AMERICAN BREAKFAST!
BOMBSAWAY
CEREAL
EAT IT!
SNAP
CRACKLE
ALL PERSERVATIVES
NT WT 15oz 425grams
AND NOW, HERE'S YOUR HOST-- JACKY COOLER!
HELLO, WELCOME, AND THANK YOU, WALLY.
HIYA, JACKY.
WELL, WE'RE PROUD TO SAY THAT WITH US TODAY IS THE MAN WHO-- WELL--"KEEPS AMERICA'S WHEELS OILED" HA HA. YES I'M SPEAKING OF NONE OTHER THAN SENIOR ENERGY ADVISOR, VINCE EAGRÉ. VINCE, WELCOME TO THE SHOW...
VINCE, YOU'VE KNOWN PRESIDENT GRAIL A LONG TIME, HAVEN'T YOU?
YES, I HAVE, JACKY. AS YA'LL KNOW I WAS "BATTLIN'" JERRY GRAIL'S SPONSOR DURIN' HIS DAYS ON THE PRO WRASSLIN' CIRCUIT. THAT WAS 'FORE JERRY TURNED HIS SIGHTS ON POLITICS, Y'UNDERSTAND..
YES! EVERYONE REMEMBERS WORLD CHAMPION JERRY GRAIL, "THE ENEMY SLAYER"...
WELL, HE'S STILL WORLD CHAMP AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED, JACKY. I BACKED GRAIL THE ATHLETE, CAUSE HE FOUGHT TO WIN. NOW, GRAIL THE PRESIDENT IS FIGHTIN' FER US ALL.
HA HA. SAY, VINCE, WE AT LBN HEAR THINGS ABOUT NEXT WEEK'S NEW AMERICA RALLY THAT ARE--WELL--EXCITING...
INDEED, JACKY LEMME SHOW YA SOMETHIN'...

THE RALLY IS ONLY THE FIRST STEP-- A CELEBRATION OF THINGS TO COME. JERRY GRAIL WILL ANNOUNCE HIS PLAN FOR THE FUTURE-- THE NEW AMERICA CAMPAIGN!

BELOW US, YA SEE PART OF THAT PLAN: MILLIONS OF GALLONS OF REFINED FINE AMERICAN PETROLEUM, STOCKPILED BY SPECIAL GOVERNMENT ORDER, HELD IN RESERVE FOR AMERICA'S BRIGHTEST HOUR!

NOW, THAT HOUR IS AT HAND!

THIS IS GOING WELL, BILL YOU'VE DONE A GOOD JOB.

THANK YOU, MR PRESIDENT

...WITH THESE RESERVES NOW AVAILABLE, WE'LL BE ABLE TO REACH OUT FOR MORE. SOON GOOD AMERICANS WILL HAVE ALL THE GAS THEY NEED FER THEIR CARS AN' BOATS AN' PLANES. HIGH TECH PLASTICS, ABUNDANT ELECTRICITY, DRINKIN' STRAWS, DISPOSABLE RAZORS--ALL THE LUXURIOUS NECESSITIES THE AMERICAN PEOPLE DESERVE AND EXPECT!

ALL DUE TO JERRY GRAIL-- AND NEW AMERICA! I ASK YA, JACKY! WHAT CAN STOP US NOW?

BALOOM

CUT TO COMMERCIAL! CUT TO COMMERCIAL!

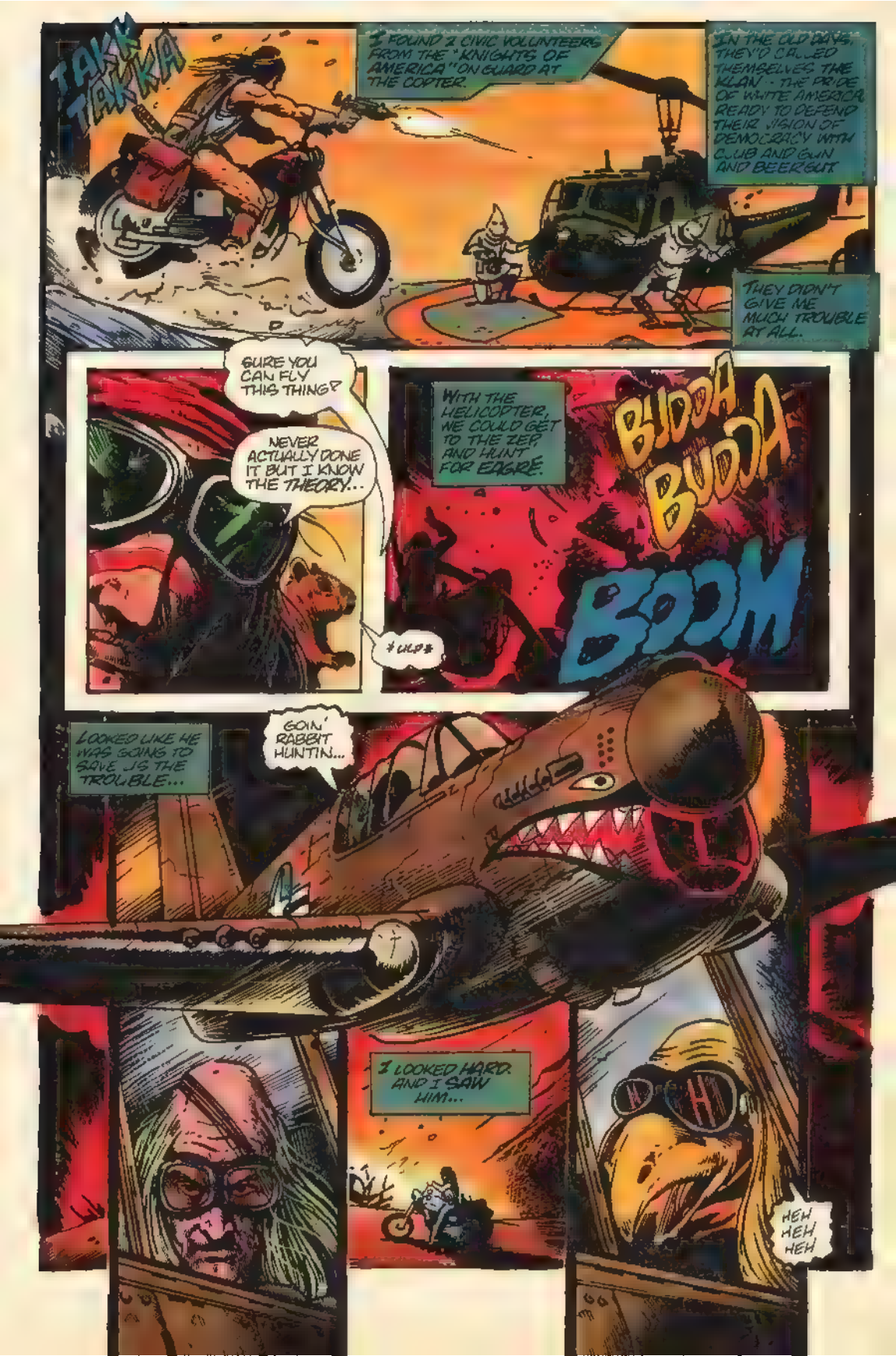
"HEY, MOM! THAT COMMUNIST KID DOWN THE BLOCK TOOK MY..."

WHAT HAPPENED?!

THE INJUN...

THE CHARGE I'D SET HAD BEEN JUST ENOUGH... A SMALL INCENDIARY BOMB FASHIONED FROM AN M-79 ROUND. THE GUARDS WOULD BE ABLE TO CONTROL THE FIRE, IF THEY WORKED REAL HARD AT IT. AND WHILE THEY WERE BUSY, WE COULD DO OUR WORK.
I COULD FEEL THE PEYOTE CRAWLING ACROSS MY BRAIN, COLORING MY VISION. I'D SWEATED. I'D SUNG. I'D CLEANED MY GUNS. THE POWER WAS WITH ME.
LOOK! THERE'S SOMEBODY...
TUKKA TUKKA TUKKA
ROCK 'N' ROLLLL, BROTHER! WHAT NOW?
I'M HITTING THE COPTER PADS. KEEP THE GUYS WHO AREN'T FIGHTING THE FIRE OFF MY BACK. AFTER THAT ALL YOU CAN CARRY AWAY FROM THIS PLACE IS YOURS.
WHY CAN'T WE JUST HIT THE SUCKER NOW AND CLAIM THAT REWARD WE HEARD ABOUT?
NO HE SAID HE COULD GET US THROUGH THE WIRE, AND HE DID
BESIDES HE'S AN INVESTMENT.

GEEZ, VAUGHN! I ALMOST BLEW YOUR HEAD OFF! WHAT ARE YOU DOING OUT OF--
C'MON, TROOPER WE'RE BUGGIN' OUT!
TROUBLE. SOMEONE MANAGED TO GET INTO UNCLE VINNIE'S STORAGE COMPLEX GOTTA BE SANTANA!
WHAT'S GOING ON OUT THERE?
MOVE IT, ROSIE! IF I'M RIGHT, HE'LL BE HEADIN' HERE NEXT WE GOTTA GET OUT OF THIS GAS BAG, AND GET THE VEEP SOMEWHERE SAFE ON THE GROUND
WHATSA MATTER WITH HER, ANYWAY?
SHE'S--SICK. I'LL PACK SOME STUFF...
FORGET IT. WE'RE GONNA GO, WE GO NOW!
LOOKS LIKE WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO SKIP THAT SHOWER MA'AM.
MS. CARVER?
...OUT--OF HERE?
BARRACKS A-F
SHUTTLE
LORD, YES.

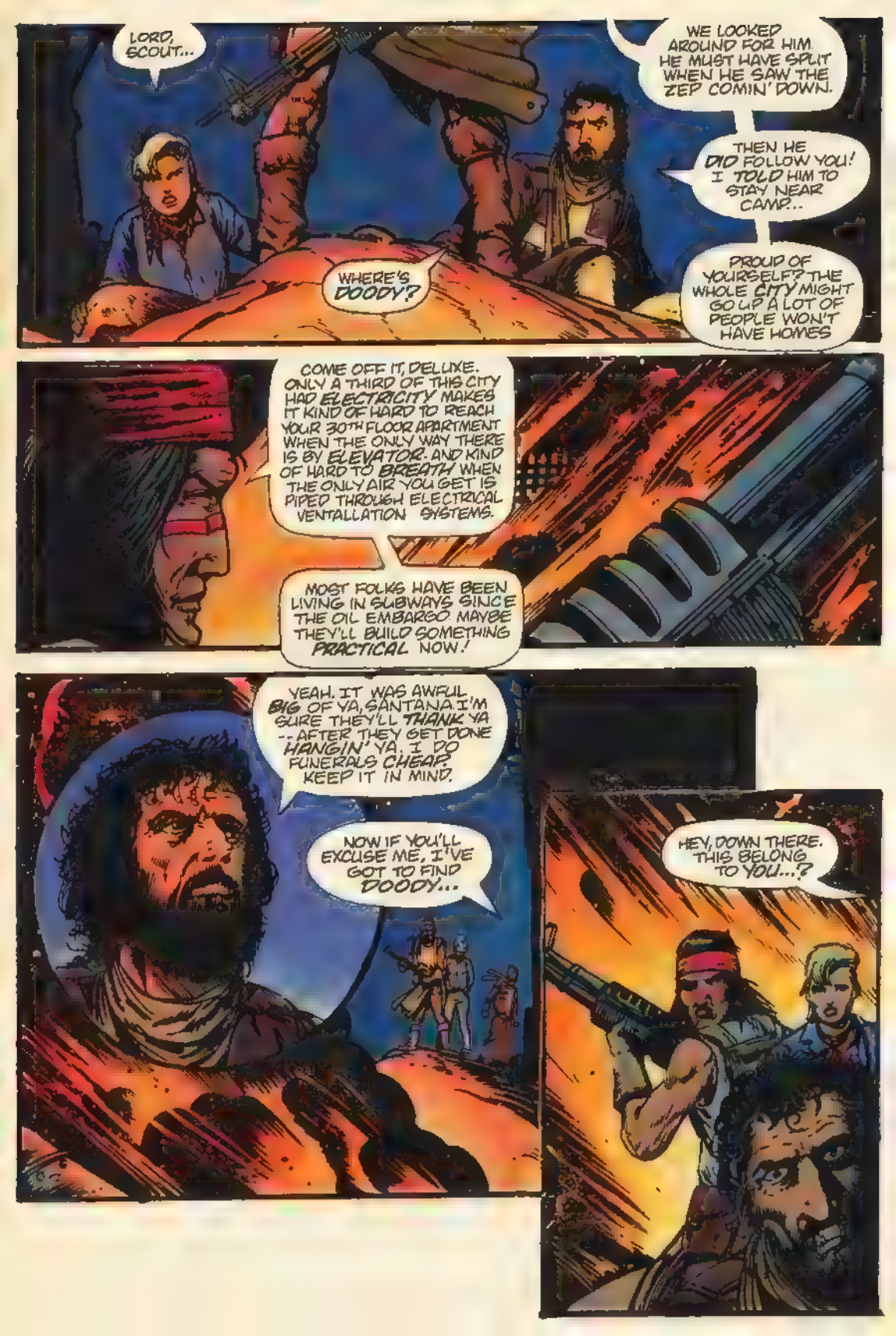

TAK TAKKA
I FOUND 2 CIVIC VOLUNTEERS FROM THE "KNIGHTS OF AMERICA" ON GUARD AT THE COPTER.
IN THE OLD DAYS, THEY'D CALLED THEMSELVES THE KLAN - THE PRIDE OF WHITE AMERICA READY TO DEFEND THEIR VISION OF DEMOCRACY WITH CLUB AND GUN AND BEERGUT.
THEY DIDN'T GIVE ME MUCH TROUBLE AT ALL.
SURE YOU CAN FLY THIS THING?
NEVER ACTUALLY DONE IT BUT I KNOW THE THEORY...
WITH THE HELICOPTER, WE COULD GET TO THE ZEP AND HUNT FOR EDGRE.
BUDDA BUDDA
BOOM
LOOKED LIKE HE WAS GOING TO SAVE US THE TROUBLE...
GOIN' RABBIT HUNTIN...
I LOOKED HARD. AND I SAW HIM...
HEH HEH HEH

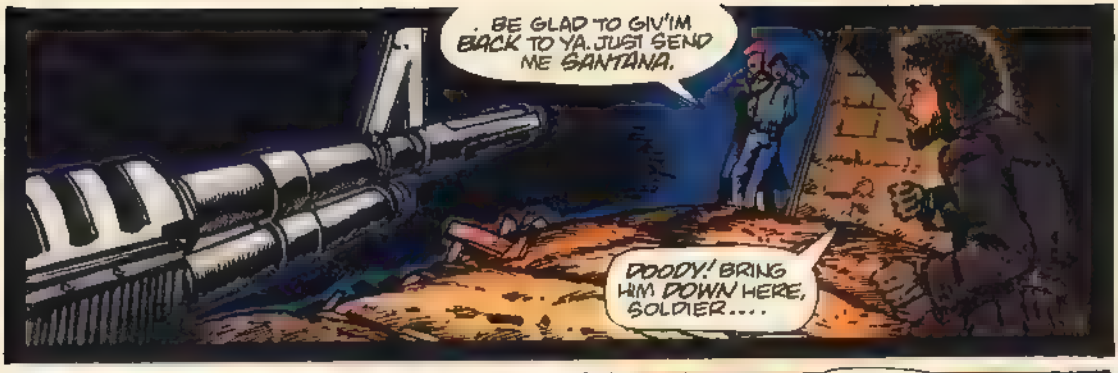
HEH HEH HEH HEH...
BUDDA
BUDDA
VIP VIP
VIP
LONG AGO, THE EAGLE MONSTER HAD SWEPT OUT OF THE SKIES, CATCHING PEOPLE ON THE PRAIRIE AND CARRYING THEM BACK TO ITS NEST TO FEED ITS MONSTROUS CHILDREN
THESE DAYS, THE MONSTER CALLED ITSELF VINNIE EAGLE, AND USED AN ANTIQUE WARPLANE.
YAH-HOOO!! GET ALONG, YOU DOGGIES! HEH HEH HEH HEH...!
WILL YOU LOOK AT THAT? A KITTYHAWK III PHOM! ALLISON V1710-81 ENGINE. SEE THE PERFORATED COOLING GRILL ON FRONT? ALSO NOTED FOR THE VISUAL LANDING INDICATORS ON TOP OF EACH WING....
WILL YOU SHUT UP GAHN...?
YAIIII!!!
BUDDA
BUDDA
OH--AND GUNS. DID I MENTION THE GUNS?-- 3 .50 CAL'S ON EACH WING--
--MAKE A RIGHT UP HERE--
VIP VIP
PING
YOU'RE REALLY A FOUNT OF INFORMATION TODAY, GAHN...
YEAH I LEARNED THAT STUFF ON "G.I. DIARY."
WHAT CAN I SAY? I'M A LLOYD BRIDGES FAN...

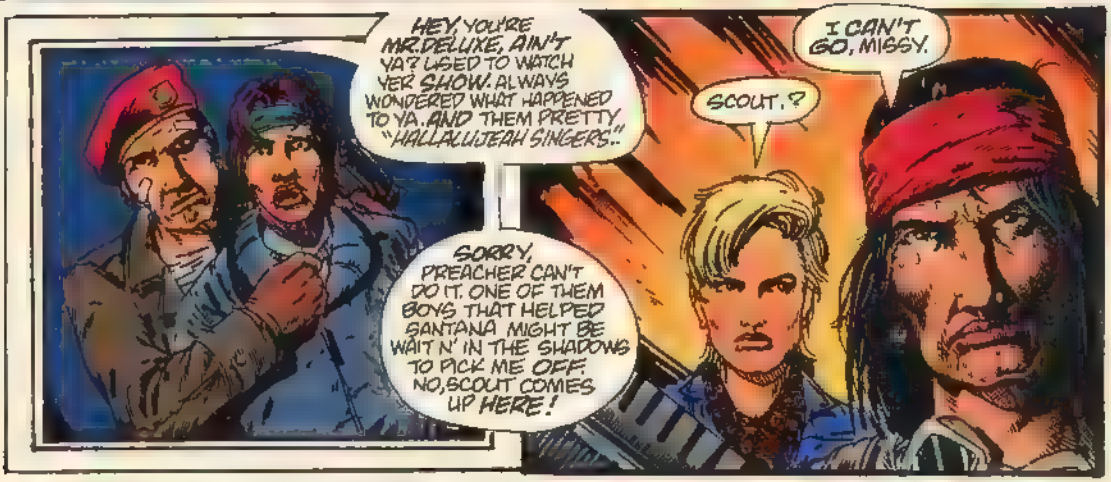
WHY CAN'T YOU SHAPE SHIFT, GAHN? --HELP US OUT!
HEY, I'M A SPIRIT GUIDE-- NOT A GUARDIAN ANGEL.
CRACK
PEOW
GUARDIAN ANGEL? WELL IT LOOKED LIKE I HAD ONE OF THOSE, TOO...
DOODY MIGHT HAVE BEEN CONSIDERED AN IDIOT BY SOME PEOPLE'S STANDARDS, BUT THERE WAS NO DOUBT THAT THE BOY WAS A CRACK SHOT.
DOODY'S BLAST HAD DISTRACTED THE EAGLE MONSTER BUT, THEN, A 308 WINCHESTER ROUND FROM A STEYR SSG SNIPER RIFLE WILL DO THAT TO YOU...
CRACK
MEANWHILE, THE GAHN HAD CONCOCTED A PLAN...
..YOU WANT ME TO DO WHAT?!
WHO'S THE SPIRIT GUIDE HERE? TRUST ME DO IT!
?

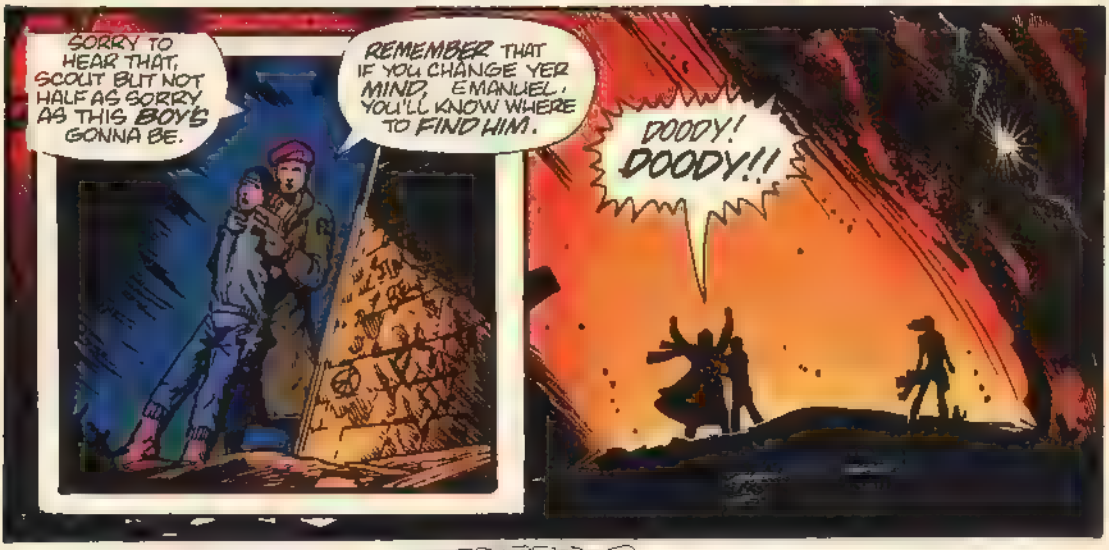
CRASH
WOOM
... WHAT YA MEAN, I WAS SUPPOSED TO STAY ON?!
YEAH? DIDN'T YOU EVER SEE "THE LOSERS?" WITH WILLIAM SMITH? NO?
AH, WHAT THE HECK LOOKS LIKE IT DID THE TRICK ANYWAY..
THE GAHN WAS RIGHT. CALL IT COINCIDENCE. CALL IT LUCK. MAYBE OLD MAN USEN HAD DECIDED TO LEND US A HAND. OR MAYBE THE EAGLE MONSTER WAS JUST TRYING TO LIMP HIS WOUNDED P.40 HOME
WAROOM
IF THAT WAS THE CASE, HE DIDN'T QUITE MAKE IT.

WHEN CHILD OF WATER KILLED THE EAGLE MONSTER THE FIRST TIME, HE KEPT A FEATHER THE FEATHER BECAME BIRDS, AND THE BIRDS FILLED THE EARTH
THAT WOULDN'T HAPPEN THIS TIME
TONS OF FLAMING, SCREAMING METAL HIT THE OIL TANKS.
AND JUST LIKE ROME -- -- HOUSTON BURNED
ABOVE THE POP AND WHINE OF INCINERATING STEEL, I COULD HEAR THE TWISTED SHRIEK OF DISTORTED STRATOCASTER NOTES. I KNEW THAT GUITAR MAN WAS TAKING HIS BOOTY HOME


LORD, SCOUT...
WE LOOKED AROUND FOR HIM. HE MUST HAVE SPLIT WHEN HE SAW THE ZEP COMIN' DOWN.
THEN HE DID FOLLOW YOU! I TOLD HIM TO STAY NEAR CAMP...
WHERE'S DOODY?
PROUD OF YOURSELF? THE WHOLE CITY MIGHT GO UP A LOT OF PEOPLE WON'T HAVE HOMES
COME OFF IT, DELUXE. ONLY A THIRD OF THIS CITY HAD ELECTRICITY MAKES IT KIND OF HARD TO REACH YOUR 30TH FLOOR APARTMENT WHEN THE ONLY WAY THERE IS BY ELEVATOR. AND KIND OF HARD TO BREATH WHEN THE ONLY AIR YOU GET IS PIPED THROUGH ELECTRICAL VENTALLATION SYSTEMS.
MOST FOLKS HAVE BEEN LIVING IN SUBWAYS SINCE THE OIL EMBARGO. MAYBE THEY'LL BUILD SOMETHING PRACTICAL NOW!
YEAH. IT WAS AWFUL BIG OF YA, SANTANA. I'M SURE THEY'LL THANK YA -- AFTER THEY GET DONE HANGIN' YA. I DO FUNERALS CHEAP. KEEP IT IN MIND.
NOW IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME, I'VE GOT TO FIND DOODY...
HEY, DOWN THERE. THIS BELONG TO YOU...?







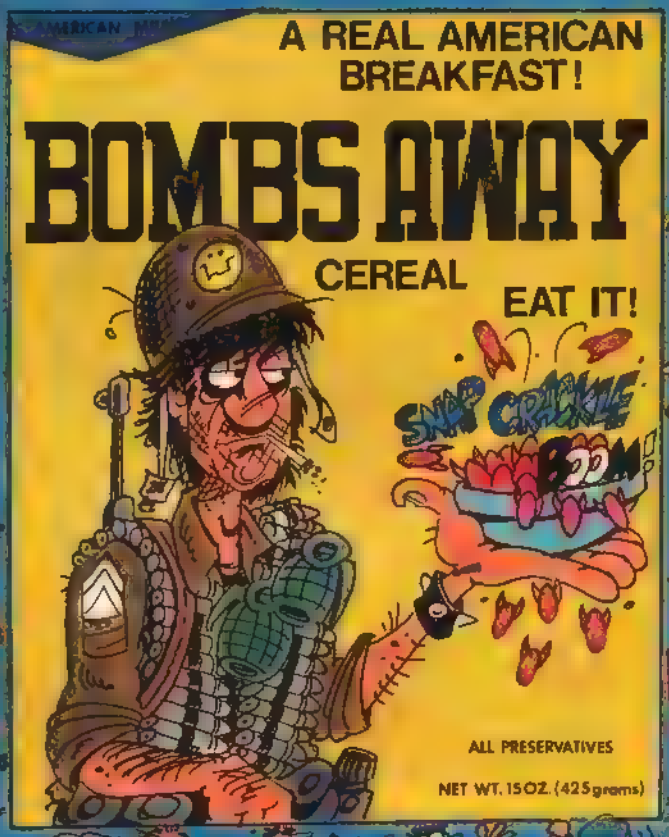
NEXT:

KILLING FLOOR!

...IN 30 DAYS!

A REAL AMERICAN BREAKFAST

BOMBS AWAY



A FREE PRIZE INSIDE!

KIDS!

"GUNS THAT MADE AMERICA"

MC99 MFR CODE exp. 1-00

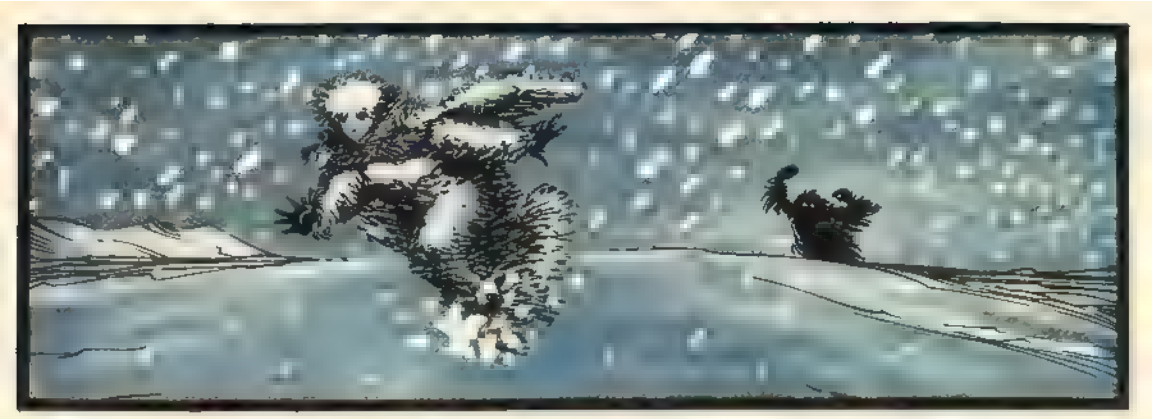
SAVE $1.50

Dear Retailer: We promise full redemption of the face value of this coupon plus 5 cents handling, upon presentation to American Mills, P.O. Box 343 Lexington MA 02173. Your where prohibited by law. Void if copied. Cash value 1/20 cent.

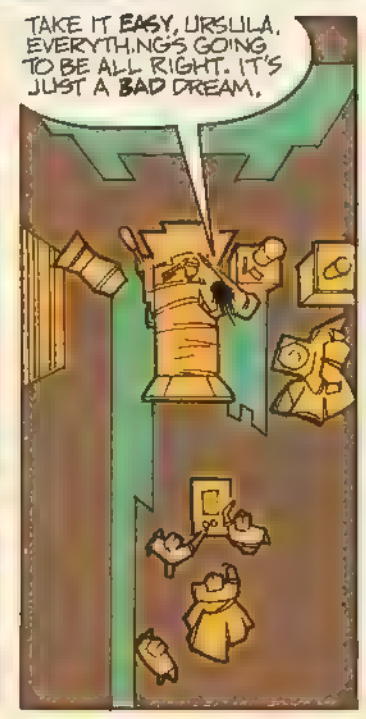
AMERICAN MILLS

SATIRE: LET WHO'D KNOW FAX

COLD.
SOMEWHERE.
FRANCES?!



GET THE DOC! SHE'S COMIN' AROUND!
AAAAAAAA!!!

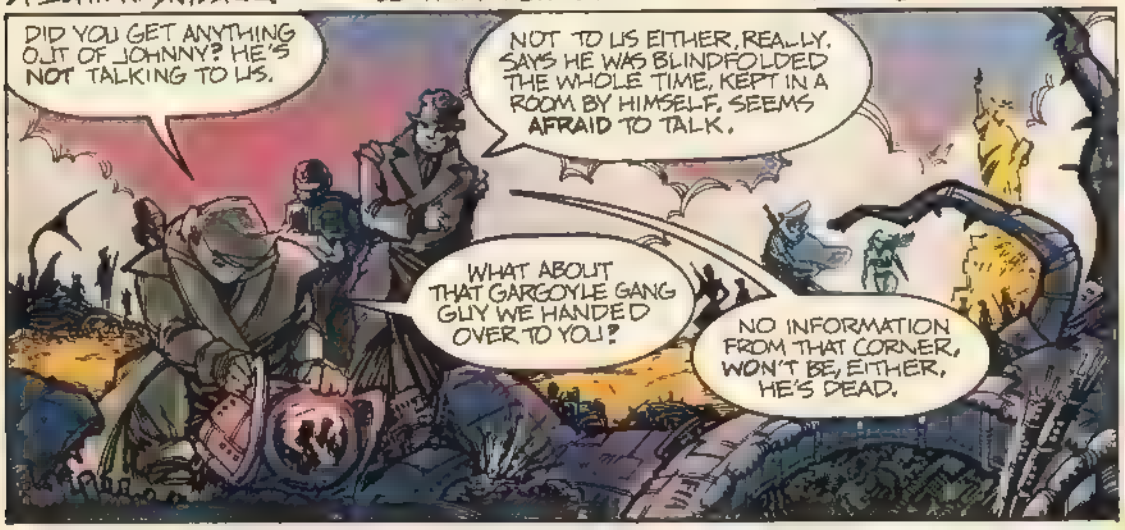

TAKE IT EASY, URSULA. EVERYTHING'S GOING TO BE ALL RIGHT. IT'S JUST A BAD DREAM.

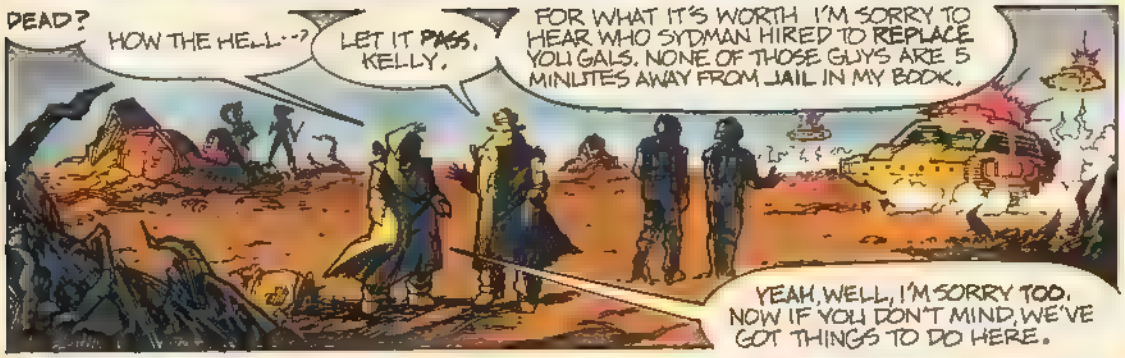
NO, SARAH. NOT JUST A DREAM.
A LITTLE GLIMPSE OF THE WORLD AS IT IS.
OR AS IT COULD BE.

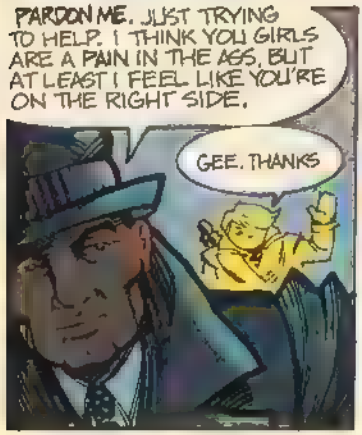
Fashion in Action

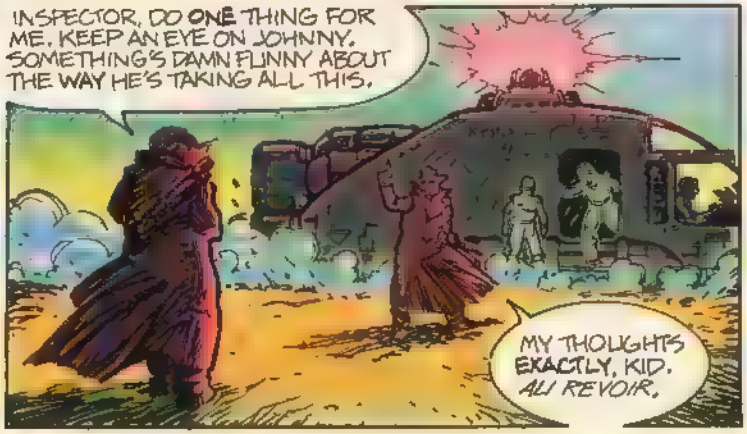
Envy Enough Rope — Part IV

BY JOHN K. SNYDER III — CO-WRITER: CHRIS FAUVER — EDITOR: CAT YRONWODE





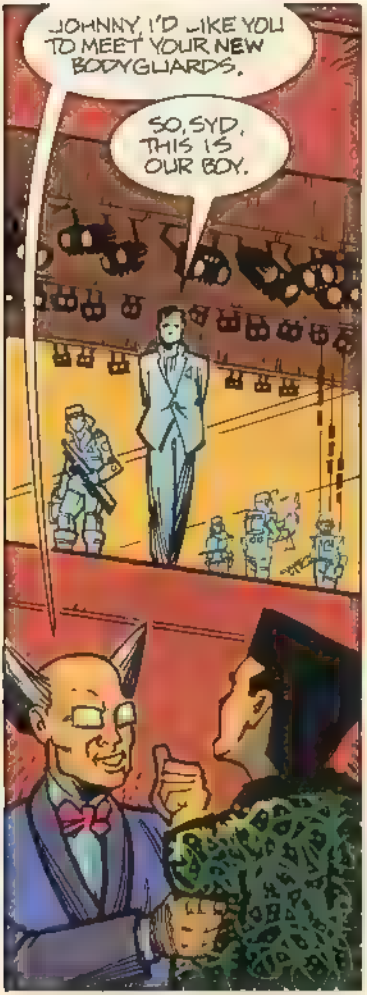


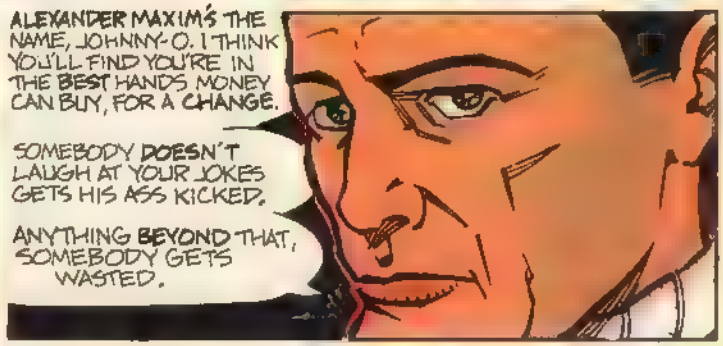


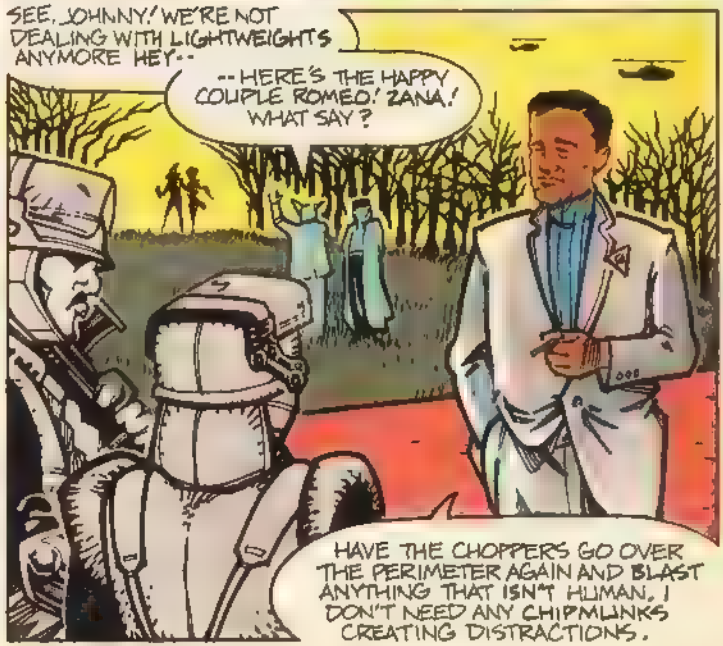
MEANWHILE, SOMEWHERE IN WESTCHESTER COUNTY...

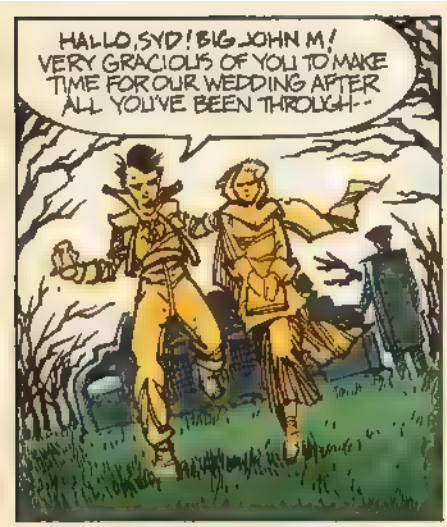
I LIKE THE ICE SCULPTURE MOTIF. IT SUITS THE BRIDE NICELY.

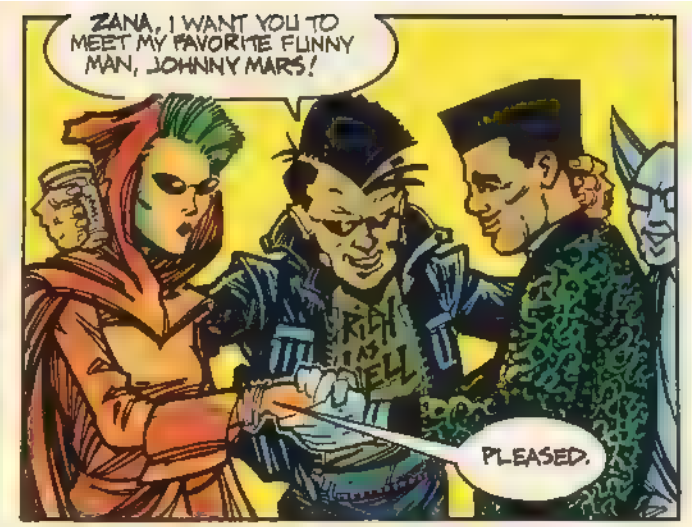
--SURE GLAD THEY OPTED FOR AN INTIMATE WEDDING.

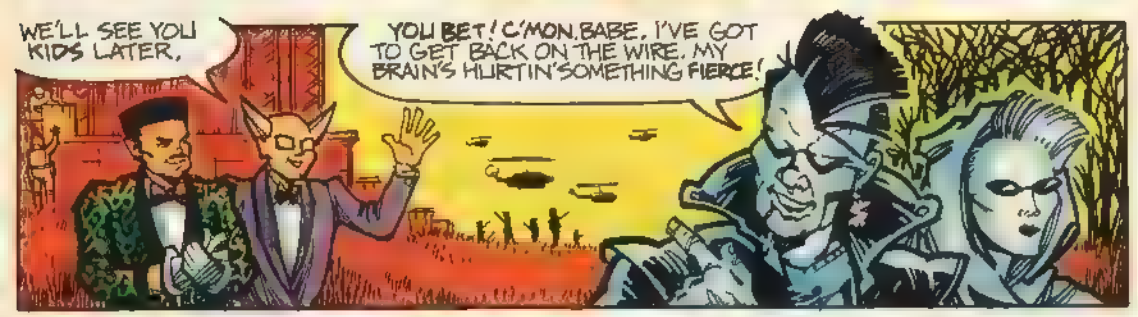


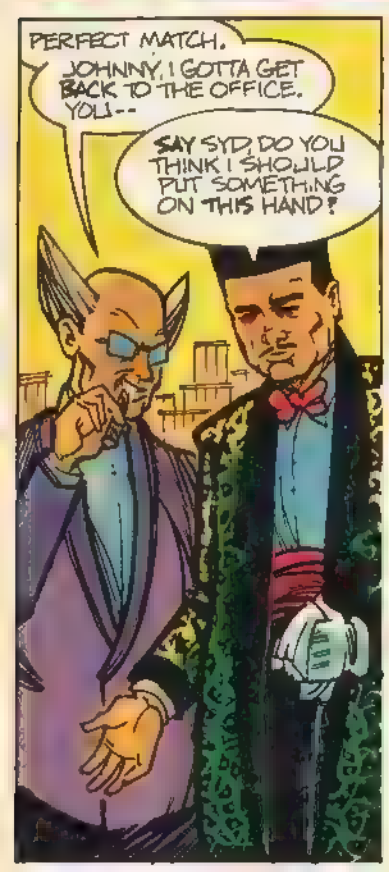





HALLO, SYD! BIG JOHN M! VERY GRACIOUS OF YOU TO MAKE TIME FOR OUR WEDDING AFTER ALL YOU'VE BEEN THROUGH--


ZANA, I WANT YOU TO MEET MY FAVORITE FUNNY MAN, JOHNNY MARS!
PLEASED.

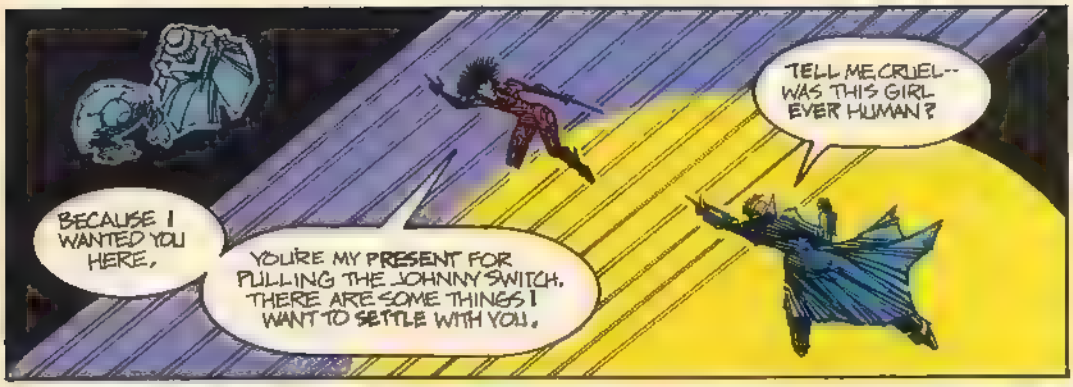

WE'LL SEE YOU KIDS LATER.
YOU BET! C'MON, BABE. I'VE GOT TO GET BACK ON THE WIRE. MY BRAIN'S HURTIN' SOMETHING FIERCE!


PERFECT MATCH.
JOHNNY, I GOTTA GET BACK TO THE OFFICE. YOU--
SAY SYD, DO YOU THINK I SHOULD PUT SOMETHING ON THIS HAND?

WHAT--THIS CHAFING HERE? MAYBE YOU'RE ALLERGIC TO THESE NEW GLOVES. I DUNNO.

IT'S NOTHING, I GUESS.

SOME YEARS AGO, I TOOK A FAILED VALIDEVILLIAN NAMED JOHNNY MARS AND MADE HIM A SUPERSTAR. I THOUGHT HE MIGHT BE USEFUL SOMEDAY.
HE WASN'T.
SO I REPLACED HIM WITH A ROBOT.
THERE'S GOING TO BE A WEDDING, MS. KNIGHT. SNUFF VIDEO STAR ROMEO BRAVO AND ZANA DRACO, THE MODEL. SOME VERY IMPORTANT PEOPLE WILL BE THERE.
SOME PEOPLE I WANT OUT OF MY WAY.
AND THIS ROBOT OF YOURS IS GOING TO KILL THESE PEOPLE.
NOTHING SO BANAL. THERE IS A PAD IN ROBOT-JOHNNY'S LEFT PALM THAT SECRETES A SERUM I'VE DEVELOPED.
THIS SERUM, ON CONTACT WITH THE SKIN, WILL TURN A PERSON INTO A GORILLA.
INTERESTING PLAN, EH?
SOUNDS SENSELESS TO ME.
NOT SO SENSELESS. WOULD YOU RATHER SEE YOUR ENEMIES DEAD OR LANGUISHING IN A ZOO SOMEWHERE?
THIS IS INSANE. WHY HAVE YOU BROUGHT ME INTO THIS?


TELL ME, CRUEL-- WAS THIS GIRL EVER HUMAN?
BECAUSE I WANTED YOU HERE,
YOU'RE MY PRESENT FOR PULLING THE JOHNNY SWITCH. THERE ARE SOME THINGS I WANT TO SETTLE WITH YOU.

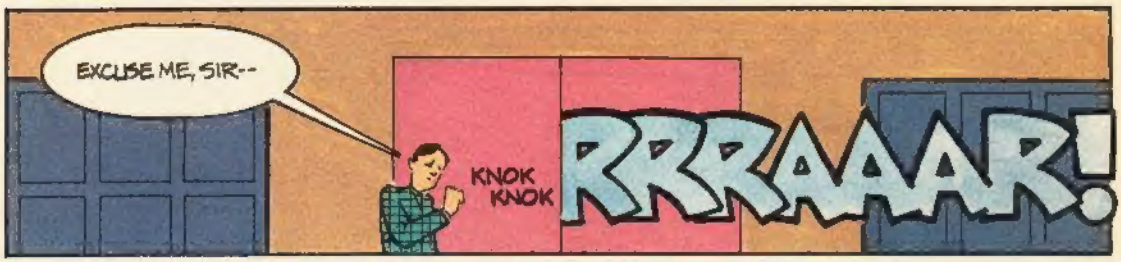
I'M PLENTY HUMAN, YOU PIG! AND EVERY BIT YOUR EQUAL! I'M DISCIPLINED, STRONG, ACCURATE -- JUST LIKE YOU!

YOU KNOW, I'VE MODELED MYSELF AFTER YOU IN MANY WAYS, FRANCES.
THOUGH NOW THAT WE'VE MET, I'M NOT SURE WHY.

THUNK!
KERASHH!!!

BE CIVIL, ROXANNE.
MEANWHILE, BACK IN OLD MANHATTAN...
IF SHE MEANS ANYTHING TO YOU, CRUEL, KEEP HER AWAY FROM ME. I DON'T NEED TO BE ARMED TO BE DANGEROUS.

YES, INSPECTOR CROUGH, MR. SYDMAN IS IN. HOLD, PLEASE.
MR. SYDMAN, INSPECTOR CROUGH WISHES TO SPEAK WITH YOU.
MR. SYDMAN?


EXCUSE ME, SIR--
KNOK KNOK
RRRAAAAR!

SORRY TO DISTURB YOU, MR. SYDMAN--
--BUT THE INSPECTOR IS ON THE--

LISTEN, SYD, INSPECTOR CROUGH HERE. NEED A FEW MORE DETAILS FOR OUR REPORTS.
WILL YOU BE IN THIS AFTERNOON?

BROKEN
english
NEXT

LOCK 'n' LOAD

SEND YOUR LETTERS TO: ECLIPSE COMICS, GUERNEVILLE, CALIFORNIA 95446

First off, a special howdy to Steve Ray Thomas and the KANSAS CITY COMIC BOOK CLUB. Steve's organization is a major one, and includes within its ranks quite a number of comic book craftsmen: among them Steve Lightle, Phil DeWalt, Denis McFarling, and Rick Stasi. If you're in the Kansas City area, you might want to look the club up. There are other clubs spread throughout the U.S., and you might want to find out where they are. If there's one nearby, why not sit in with them sometime? If there are no clubs in your area, why not start one? In any event, we'd love to hear from your organization sometime.

Secondly, thanks to buddy Bob Wayne for providing me with the name of the "missing director" of the Swedish police film, ***Man on the Roof.*** *It was Bo Widerberg, folks. 'Preciate it, Bob. Ya'll drop by and see Bob and Fantastic Worlds Book Store next time yer cayoose throws a shoe down in Fort Worth, Texas (B.W. knows some GREAT Mexican food joints. . .).*

On to the letters:

I liked very much the first two issues of **Scout.** I find myself in great appreciation of Mr. Truman's art and story-writing. After he left GRIMJACK, I thought myself plumb out of luck until I read about **Scout** somewhere. Any chance of having a whole book of **Scout** himself?

Peter Evans
5454 South Shore Dr, Apt 1134
Chicago IL 60615

From time to time, Peter, you will see an extra-length **Scout** *installment, as was the case with* **Scout** *#2, and will be the case with* **Scout** *#6, which climaxes Santana's current adventure and sets the stage for the adventures that follow. We're also toying with the idea of sometime introducing a backup strip featuring characters other than Scout in adventures which would eventually link up with the main story. Whatya think?*

Until then, I'm real happy with the way things are, and with John's **Fashion In Action.** *John and I had wanted to appear together in a book since the time he was helping me with the* **Time Beavers** *graphic novel. Now that we're doing just that, I've been real excited by what John's been turning out, and even moreso by the turn of events which develops in* **Fashion in Action** *within the next few issues.*

The current format also leaves me with a bit of free time every month to be with Beth and Ben, to research material for future **Scout** *episodes, and to work on special projects (such as the story John Ostrander and I did for next month's GRIMJACK second anniversary issue, plug, plug. . .).*

Your **Scout** is something else! It's kind of like COYOTE, kind of like "Blood & Guts," kind of like an RPG *[That's Role-Playing Game, folks, not Rocket-Propelled Grenade—T.T.]* called AFTERMATH, and mostly like *something else.*

Scout himself is a nutcase—like he's been tripping out on lucys for so long that now he's always having "visions." Some warrior. But he conducts himself like Eastwood in *A Fistful of Dollars.* Very strange.

You must put a hell of a lot of work into your art. It's more detailed than just about any I've seen. Reminds me of Gulacy's SIX FROM SIRIUS. Very complex.

Fashion in Action is also very interesting, if a bit *novo.*

Both you and John Snyder III draw beautiful-looking women. I don't know how you do it; I've been trying for years and have had few successes. Mine just don't look RIGHT. Yours, on the other hand, are to drool over.

Can't wait to see more of this foxy mercenary, Rosanna Winter. Hope she isn't as cold as her name.

Scott Wesely
1617 Sioux
Lincoln NE 68502

Rosa? Oh, I advise you to keep you eye on ***her.*** *. . .*

Scout #2 wasn't bad, but you're going to have to work on your characterization. Missy could use a little more personality. The tough cookie routine can't go on forever. Scout's relationship with the Gahn is a cliché—nothing but wisecracks until it comes time to feed us another clue as to what the heck is going on. I found the darker side of the Gahn that we saw in the first issue more stimulating. The bad guys certainly are bad. I mean, they talk tough and slap girls, but what do they really want? Just to sit out by the pool and knock women around?

Well, maybe I'm a little impatient. My questions and complaints might be cleared up in the next issue or the one after that. But let's not be leisurely about this. I want characters that I care about, and situations that are more involving than they are just mysterious.

On the plus side, the story was well written and the drawings were fabulous. It's nice to see your stuff get the printing quality it deserves.

Fashion In Action's second chapter was better than the first. A sense of mystery and excitement was achieved, and I'm starting to get a feel for the characters. With eight pages every two months to work with *[Not so, now, John—we're monthly!—T.T.]*, you're not going to have as much opportunity to develop this futuristic environment, but the colorful illustrations go a long way toward making up for that.

The whole comic continues to show promise, and I look forward to seeing it fulfilled.

John Egan
1557 Newland Ave
Burlingame CA 94010

John Egan, as any regular Eclipse lettercol reader knows, is a HARD man to please. He's also a fun guy to get letters from. While I certainly don't agree with all your points, John, questions such as yours do help me to examine what I've done and plan to do with the overall story. I hope that many of your questions have been cleared up. I think they should be, if you've managed by now to fall into the pattern with which I've chose to unfold **Scout's** *story, and the pace at which I've chosen to develop the characters (many of whom might turn out to be very different from the people they seemed to be when first introduced).*

I know an illustrator who was drawing the second issue of a major miniseries for one of the larger companies. This illustrator called the writer of that particular series in order

to find out if there were any events planned for the third issue that the illustrator should know about which might help the artist to put the story across better. The writer was quite baffled by the artist's question. It seems that this writer had yet to plot the third issue of the miniseries—and, in fact, didn't have much of an idea at all as to what was going to happen (I guess that's why they're also called "limited series," folks. . .).

The happenings in **Scout** *are very calculated, John. Whether or not it works for you, you'll just have to trust that I know where it's going. In any case, thanks for your commentary. Now, what do you other folks think? C'mon—let's get some CHATTER goin'. . . .*

Just thought I'd drop you a line and let you all know I'm enjoying Timothy Truman's **Scout.** It appears that the good ol' boy can do no wrong. I like the way Tim inserts the old Indian legends. I admire a writer who does his research.

Sgt. Raymond Vaughn *does* look like Stevie Ray! I wonder if Stevie will ever see this? I'm sure he'd be proud. And, gee, I could've sworn I saw SGT. ROCK and GRIMJACK in issue 2.

By the way, in case you didn't know, Tim is one fine blues guitar player. Gotta go. Thanks for puttin' out **Scout.** Stay outta trouble.

Beau Smith
c/o Comicast
PO Box 2886
Huntington WV 25727

Stayin' outta trouble's hard for us West Virginia boys to do, Beau. I mean, there goes the whole **evening,** *man. . . .*

As for Steve Ray—well, any similarities between anyone living or dead, etc. However, I will say that the first time I saw Double Trouble's "Love Struck Baby" video, I just **knew** *that if there would ever be anyone I'd want to pattern, say, a tough, crusty, butt-kickin' U.S. Army Ranger after, it'd be S.R.V. I mean, the boy's faster than snakes or the blink of an eye. . . .*

Beau Smith's COMICAST, by the way, is a sort of "comic magazine on the air." Might pay you to write Beau and check it out sometime. Why, if you listen real hard, you might even hear some real fine blues guitar playin'. . . .

I've loved your work ever since I first saw it in GRIMJACK. My fave part, though, which is missing in **Scout,** was reading all the graffiti you would put in. My favorite was the poster advertising a Blasters/Rank and File show in Cynosure. I wanted to go so bad it hurt, but I guess the dimensions were out of alignment. Oh, well.

In this world of Secret Wars, it's good to see a comic which tells a real story. And an interesting one, too. Keep up the good work.

Sean Klein
8306 Lindley #4
Northridge CA 91325

I trust you've been getting your graffiti-fix in the more recent **Scout** *episodes, Sean. There are more kids with paint cans in the streets of 1999 Houston than in the deserts of Arizona and New Mexico, I reckon.*

By the way, the concert was great.

Thanks for your kind words.

To tell ya the truth, I'm not sure which section of *Scout* #2 I liked best. The lead feature (which, by the way, sported *the* most beautiful cover I've ever seen) really impressed me. But, then, I've always been a sucker for a story which involved a quest, an Indian, and a dark sense of humor.

The art was, as usual, beautifully realistic, and the colors really helped heighten the many moods and emotional aspects inherent in the book. The story itself kept my attention and had me constantly guessing what was going to happen next.

"Lock 'n' Load" really floored me. I mean, I knew some of these details, but I never knew about your job in the hospital or your (chuckle) brief employment by the Helpful Handyman. Does he know what you're up to know? (By the way, what happend to "Streets of Fire"? I didn't see it in your list of 12 favorite movies.)

Then, to round out the book, along comes John K. Snyder III's new **Fashion in Action** installment. No doubt about it, this concept is a winner. The story flows along quite smoothly, and the artwork is absolutely top notch.

Yep. This is one of the few books being published today that's actually *worth* its cover price. Keep up the good work, guys.

P.S. Can Missy or Frances come out and play?

Elvis Orten
c/o Munden's Bar
Cynosure

Just as soon as Little Iodine drops those charges against you, Elvis.

I'm sure my ex-employer neither knows or cares what I'm up to these days. Between you and me, I wouldn't be surprised to find out that some less kindhearted good old boy's sort of "accidental-like" backed his four-wheeler over the ugly sucker by now.

• • • •

You'll have noticed by now that **Scout** *has a new colorist—Mr. Sam Parsons (stand up, Sam). Nice, huh? Sam has spent a lot of time working with Steve Oliff on various of the latter artisan's projects. His familiarity with Steve's technique makes for a very smooth transition between their individual contributions to this book. Yet Sam's work is distinctly his own, and we're real pleased with what he's doing.*

Mr. Oliff, in the meantime, is taking a brief leave from the comics scene, as I understand it, exploring some new computerized coloring processes that only he can tell you about . . . and will, soon, in an upcoming issue of **Mr. Monster.**

• • • •

At this point, I'd like to make a minor correction to my autobiography is issue 2's "Lock 'n' Load." I did **not** *"shave my head" last year, nor do I plan to in the future.* ***[Huh?—cat]***

That's about it. Keep those cards and letters comin', at the above address. Now that John and I are firmly into the meat of our little tales, we'd love to hear your impressions and speculations. Idle banter and libelous gossip is also accepted—if not printed. And if anyone out there can get me a clean tape of the collected works of Otis Rush, there's a **Scout** *original in it for you. . . .*

NEXT ISSUE: Scout penetrates the Astrodome. The demanded sacrifice is paid. The window into Grail's plans is made clearer. Mr. Deluxe and Bill Loper have an interesting conversation. Our Vice President runs low on methadone. The effects on the human head of a 12-gauge shotgun round. And more.

In F.I.A.: Kelly, Sarah, and Talia move in. Teresa changes clothes (of course). Dr. Cruel unveils his plans. Frances and Roxanne make ready for their showdown. And everyone goes APE. (So THAT'S why Johnny 3 bought that old DC *Super Heroes Meet Super Gorillas* comic at the last con. . . .)

Now go away. We got work to do.

—Timothy Truman, Dec. 1985

Fashion in Action
FOR BEST RESULTS, PASTE SARAH, STRUT & SPAK-1 ONTO SHIRT CARDBOARD AND CUT NOTCH WITH X-ACTO KNIFE (CAREFUL!) TO INSERT BOOK OR SPAK-1.
STARTIN' UP WITH A ROUGH COTTON SHIRT BY ANARCHO. WESTERN TIE COURTESY OF SARAH'S UNCLE KAZ, SILVERSMITH. LOOSE FITTIN' SUEDE PANTS FROM BONNEY'S.
CUT ALONG CONTOUR OF FIST
STURDY FELT HAT BY LANGTRY.
SARAH
©J.K.SNYDER'S
CUT ON DOTTED LINE
ROUGH RIDIN' WOOL-BLEND GABARDINE OVERCOAT ALSO BY ANARCHO W/LAMBS-WOOL PULL-OVER BY SKROLISE.
SUEDE JACKET FROM VAN CLEEF OF LEONE'S, BELT BY GAGE.
STRUT
WHOA! FRONTIER JUSTICE, SPAK-1 STYLE.
SARAH'S LATEST READ -- RARE 1999 EDITION OF ROSA WINTER'S IN THE CAMP OF THE BARBARIANS, FROM TEXAS INDEPENDENT PRESS. HAPPY TRAILS, FASHION FANS!
WALKING PROUD WITH INDESTRUCTIBLE CANARRAY LEATHER BOOTS.
F.I.A. PAPERDOLL SERIES NO.2:
SARAH'S WINTER WEAR